



## En route to becoming Wales' premier animal hospital



**Shepherds Vets is a Bridgend-based veterinary centre that has raised the bar in terms of a traditional veterinary practice.**

The new state-of-the-art centre, situated in Brackla Park, is the culmination of a five year project involving Bridgend County Borough Council, Robert Chapman & Co and the Welsh Assembly Government.

The centre, which is en route to becoming Wales' premier animal hospital, is fitted with state of the art equipment including ultrasound scanners, x-ray rooms and ECG machines and comprises of six consulting rooms, three operating theatres, one of which is a dedicated dental theatre.

Eleven vets currently work for the practice, which employs 35 staff and deals with an average of 100 animals a day.

The impressive building, set on a 1.2 acre site, was officially opened in November by First Minister, Rhodri Morgan A.M. It has been finished to a very high design spec. and boasts a large car park, spacious waiting area, segregated for dogs, cats and small animals, as well as a retail section selling high quality pet products. There are also plans to expand the

facilities to cater for larger animals such as horses and cattle.

Tony John, a partner in the practice who has lived in Bridgend all his life said, "This project has been the result of years of planning and development. It has always been our vision to produce a high quality veterinary facility to service the local community. The community has always supported us and we want to give something back to them, whilst at the same time putting Bridgend on the map".

Officers from Bridgend Council's Economic Development Unit and Planning Department were involved with the project from the outset, offering expert advice which helped steer Tony in the right direction.

The 1.7million project was supported by the Welsh Assembly Government and Robert Chapman & Company, who successfully completed the acquisition of the land to facilitate the development.

Ray Pearce, Head of the Council's Economic Development Unit said: "The opening of this surgery has raised the bar in terms of a veterinary practice. With the potential to become one of the only animal hospitals in Wales, this facility is of major importance to the local economy and is certain to raise the profile of the county borough throughout the region".